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#### CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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	INFORMA	TION REPORT	REPORT NO.				
			ÇD NO.				
COUNTRY USSR (Lithua	nian SSR)		DATE DISTR.11Februar	y 1953			
SUBJECT Conditions is	SUBJECT Conditions in Klaipeda and the Lithuanian SSR						
DATE OF 25	5X1	·	NO. OF ENCLS. 1	25X1			
PLACE ACQUIRED			SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	:			
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Population							

- 1. After the war, the number of local inhabitants remaining in Klaipeda was small. Some of them had been killed during the war, many escaped to various countries, and only a small part remained in Klaipeda itself. However, Russian military staffs and Russians who had left their units stayed in Klaipeda when the war ended. In addition, demobilized soldiers moved from various parts of the country to this city.
- 3. When a Lithuanian came to a factory or office to apply for work, he had to pay 500 chervonets to get a position. Everyone was taking bribes, and black-marketeering was increasing. The Lithuanians who had lost almost everything during the war were not able to pay money to bribe the directors, and therefore they could not get work. On the other hand, the Bolsheviks working in factories

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and elsewhere were eager to move their relatives to Klaipeda from the kolkhozy and other places where they were working in Russia. The Bolsheviks tried to keep the best positions in their offices for the newcomers. It was no secret that in a comparatively short time the best positions were occupied by various Bolshevik Party members. In all offices where the work was easier and the wages higher, only newly-arrived Russians were employed.

- 4. More people came than were expected and, since many factories were destroyed in the war and since it is not easy to rebuild them or to open new ones, many newcomers could not find any kind of work. Moreover, they had no money for bribes. But these people found new ways for earning their living. Most of them were armed and were living in these suburbs of Klaipeda which had been destroyed. They attacked individuals who came from other towns and villages, took their property and money, and the clothing from those who were well-dressed.
- 5. These persons started to be dangerous also to the Bolshevik directors and employees and, to get rid of them, the Bolsheviks organized large militia sections employing many individuals. The Russians who formerly were robbing the inhabitants now had an opportunity to work with the militia. When on duty, the new militia continued to plunder villages, farmers, and the shops of oblast towns. Such raids were carried out under the name of the Lithuanian partisans. Some of these gangs were caught and the members were imprisoned. Many of the plunderers were killed. The number of robberies has decreased in Klaipeda and in Lithuania as a whole. However, most of the thefts which occur now are carried out not by local inhabitants but by individuals who moved to Lithuania after the war. New inhabitants are still arriving from the other republics.

### Goods and Prices

- 6. In spite of Bolshevik propaganda about the cheap prices of goods in the USSR and the shortage of such goods in capitalist countries, it often happens that the Bolsheviks themselves must issue food cards for some goods. They claim that there are no shortages in the Soviet Union itself, because by 1947 the USSR already was producing more goods than before the war. They claim, therefore, that it was possible to dispense entirely with food cards in the USSR even before the capitalistic states were able to do so. However, a person buying anything will never get it at the price mentioned by propagandists.
- 7. At the end of 1949, the first materials for lining appeared in the shops, as well as silk materials for women's dresses. Sometimes the shops were supplied with material for suits. Also new was the supply of footwear in the shops. The prices of all these items were very high:

Item		Price (in rubles)
Suit material	(good quality)	(1 meter) 400
Suit material	(enough to make a whole suit)	1,500
Silk material		(1 meter) 70 to 90
Men's underwear	(good quality)	120
Men's underwear	(poor quality)	45
Men's shoes	(rubber soles; poorest quality)	90 to 120
Men's shoes	(made in Czechoslovakia, good quality)	320
Galoshes		40
Wrist watch	(cheapest kind; trade-mark Pobeda )	380
Wrist watch	(better quality)	700 to 900

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- 8. In 1949, when the shops were supplied with larger quantities of goods, items sold out very quickly despite high prices because Party members employed in towns received high wages and bought large quantities of goods, which they sent to their relatives in Russia. Workers could not even dream of buying anything. By the fall of 1950 it was impossible to buy material for a suit or coat in the Univermag (department store). All that was left was the material for underwear and women's dresses. When the better quality goods were sold, rumors were spread that the Party had decided not to supply the shops as long as old supplies and the supplies of various small articles were not sold out. This decision resulted from the fact that the new goods to be supplied were better quality and because, after the accomplishment of the five-year plan, prices would become much cheaper and there would no longer be a lack of any kind of goods. Only persons who did not urgently need clothing could wait for the new supplies and cheaper prices. Others who inquired where they could buy what they needed were told that all kinds of materials could be purchased in the shops of Riga and on the black market there. After some time the stores in Riga were also empty, and the people went to Tallinn. There, too, the shops were empty, and the black marketeers had disappeared. Many people who went somewhere to buy material for a suit or some other goods were arrested on their way back as black marketeers and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.
- 9. It is not possible to get woolen material in Lithuania or in shops in any other country occupied by the Russians.

  Russians

  Russians

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  when they went on vacation to Russia they bought various goods, like silk

  materials, scarves, etc., in Lithuania to bring home as presents.

  25X

  this is an indication that such goods are unavailable in Russia.

  It is possible to buy various kinds of materials in Lithuania, such as materials for linings and shirts and silk materials. The shops are also supplied with brushes, brooms, cigarettes, and various kinds of soap. There is never a lack of alcoholic drinks like brandy, various kinds of wine, etc. Sometimes even motorcycles can be purchased. The cheapest kind costs 2,500 rubles. Bicycles cost 700-900 rubles.
- 10. At present there are no bicycles for grown-ups in the shops, but the Russians have established a factory in Simuliai which produces tricycles for children. These can be purchased in every town in the Univermag, but the people are not buying them. Everyone understands that the production of such toys is one of the means of propaganda. Industry is working only for the requirements of war. The iron-ore industry is producing almost nothing for the requirements of the people. Even horsethoes and other similar goods needed by the kolkhozy can seldom be bought in snops, although they are really important. To conceal the shortage of iron for such articles, the Bolsheviks establish factories like the toy factory in Simuliai. The establishment of such a factory is publicized everywhere and used for making propaganda, although it is not improving the economic life of the people.
- 11. Concerning the reduction of prices, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reductions had to be made 25X1 because prices were much too high. As of July 1951, 25 cigarettes of a secondary brand were selling for 3.60 rubles, while a person only earned 6 to 10 rubles per day. Cheap quality brandy (40 percent alchol) still costs 50 rubles per liter. Bread prices could be reduced. For 50 kilograms of rye, the State pays the farmer 4.5 rubles, whereas 1 kilogram bread costs 2.40 to 2.90 rubles. It is the same with beef, for which those buying it in a shop pay 10 to 11 rubles per kilogram and the farmer gets only 1.5 rubles per kilogram. The fisherman sets 0.25 rubles per kilogram of first quality codfish and individuals pay 4.5 rubles per kilogram for it. There are many examples of this kind and it is clear why some of the prices have to be reduced.

25X1 12. In 1948 cotton trousers produced at a factory in Vilnius and 25X1 25X1 30 rubles In 1951, after the so-called reduction of prices,

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	trousers	 rubles	for	the	same	quality	
and make.					_		] <sub>25X</sub>
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### Employment and Working Conditions

- 13. Local Lithuanian workers have no opportunity to choose their jobs. They are forced to work in factories where the work is hard and unhealthy, as, for instance, in the factory producing fertilizer, and the cellulose factories. It is not easy to get work even in these factories, because the worker has to submit the following documents when being employed: employment certificate which has to show the reason why the worker left his previous place of employment, passport, and sometimes also a military certificate. The most important document is the employment certificate with the description of the worker's character and social position. This is important since the life story told by the worker himself might be fraudulent and a person who left his farm (a so-called boze) or some other unreliable or unscrupulous person might be employed who would interfere with the fulfillment of the fixed plans of the factory. It is not easy to acquire all the papers requested by the factory or its director. Not all workers who are looking for work come from very small farms or from families without farms. Many persons looking for work are people who escaped to the city from their farms, when their families were deported to Siberia in the beginning of the Russian occupation. Such people have many difficulties to overcome and end up with work of the worst kind.
- 14. Workers in factories and other working places cannot work independently; each of them must be attached to a brigade. The number of workers belonging to brigades varies, but they usually consist of 10 to 12 persons. One of the group is the chief of the brigade and is called the brigadier. The brigadier has to be a Party member, a person who is loyal to the Bolshevik government. Therefore, most of the brigadiers are Russians. The brigadier has the right to choose the workers for his brigade. They choose those people who invite them to restaurants for drinks on pay days. Such workers have the sympathy of their brigadier, and they are sure that they will stay in the same brigade for a long time and that they will get work of the easiest kind.
- 15. The brigadier is instructed to make work schedules for the brigade, showing how much work was done by the brigade during working hours. He submits these schedules to the office of the person who plans the work. If the brigadier is on bad terms with this person, his schedules will not be approved and only part of the work actually done will be approved. That part of the work which was not approved will be added to the schedule of a brigade whose brigadier is on good terms with the planner and other chiefs as a result of his inviting them for drinks. If the origadier is an old Party member and five or six persons in his brigade are Communist Youth members or activists, he can be sure that schedules submitted by him will not only be approved but will be increased by work added from unapproved schedules. It can happen that a planner will add part of the work of six or seven brigades with unapproved schedules to the schedule of a brigade, which in this way overfulfills its norm by 200 to 250 percent.
- 16. Such a brigade is credited with having done its work two or two and a half months in advance and is paid accordingly. The workers of such a brigade get 1,000 to 1,300 rubles per month. Their photographs and life stories are published in the newspapers and on factory bulletin boards. They get gold medals, Lenin medals, and, at the end of the year, premiums of 3,000 to 4,000 rubles. At the same time they promise to increare the percentage of their work and to fortify Communist strength. Such propaganda is distributed among the inhabitants of the country, showing the wonderful life the Communist government has given to the workers of Lithuania and other brotherly countries by releasing them from the capitalists. Brigades whose schedules were not approved and who are credited with only a part of the appointed work are also paid accordingly. Such workers earn 250 to 300 rubles per month.

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- 17. A worker in the commercial port of Klaipeda must put in eight hours a day either carrying cargo from warehouses to ships or loading freight cars. He must carry the cargo on his back without mechanical aid. Frequently he must carry these loads a long distance, covering not less than 60 meters with each load. He is expected to load 18 tons (sic) of cargo, irrespective of the type of goods he may be moving, be it cement, lead, sugar, or anything else. Nor does the height to which cargo must be piled in the warehouses enter into the calculation of work norms. In loading cargo, the worker is expected to stack it in piles up to 2 meters high.
- 18. For completing this work norm, the worker should receive 18 rubles per day according to established pay scales. Actually, however, he receives much less, because from his earnings the authorities will make deductions for a State loan, income tax, trade union dues, family tax if the number of his demendents is small, and numerous other deductions.

not all workers could fulfill such norms, especially if they work in brigades. The majority of workers manage to fulfill only about half of the norm, or even less if the type of cargo or other working conditions go against them. Thus the worker gets only half his pay, 9 rubles or less per day. Sometimes when the workers have to unload scrap metal or bricks, they earn only 6 rubles, causing their monthly wage to fluctuate between 250 and 300 rubles. The only exceptions are those workers who are working in propaganda brigades which get all the facilities to accomplish the fixed norms.

- 19. Workers who are employed in such semi-military places as the commercial docks of Klaipeda get free work clothes. During a year they get one simple pair of overalls in summer, trousers lined with wadding and a warm shirt instead of a jacket in winter, and one pair of work shoes. This clothing does not suffice for the whole year. Since they do not earn enough money to buy clothes, the workers in Klaipeda and other towns and villages have an appearance similar to that of the Bolsheviks coming from the other republics.
- 20. The Bolsheviks could persuade the inhabitants to believe in their propaganda about the liberty of workers in the democratic Bolshevik countries and the oppression of working classes in capitalist countries if the workers were not overloaded with work, if they were paid better, and if they were not suppressed so much. When the Russian worker hears propaganda about strikes in England, America, etc., with demands for higher salaries, he thinks about himself. He cannot go on strike and cannot even say that he is dissatisfied, because he would be imprisoned at once. He also knows that, if the Bolsheviks asked him to work without pay for a short or long period, he would do it because he would know of no other way out.
- 21. The discipline of the workers is very strict. If a worker is five minutes late, he gets the same punishment as if he did not appear for work at all. Failure to appear for work is called a walk. When this happens the first time, the worker is sentenced by the public court to pay a fine. Twenty-five percent of his wage is deducted for a period of three months. Until this fine is paid, a worker could never get permission to leave his work, no matter where he wanted to go. If the worker is late or does not appear for work a second time, twenty-five percent of his wage is deducted for a period of six months, or, if working at a semi-military installation, he might be sentenced to three months! labor in a labor camp. A third offense not supported by a document showing that he was ill causes the worker to be sentenced to six months in a labor camp. When he is released from camp, a note is made in his work book stating that he is a worthless worker who disrupts the discipline of the working place. With such a recommendation, the person would never get any kind of work except in a kolkhoz or sovkhoz, which employs workers of all kinds and criminals after they are released from prison.

## Military Units

22. Considering the size of the city, there is a great deal of military activity

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in Klaipeda. Throughout the city there are many miscellaneous garrisons of naval and land units which are undoubtedly a part of the military forces stationed here. Besides those units which are living scattered about the city (containing about 200 to 300 persons) there are also several larger units. One of these is an infantry drilling point which can be seen when walking along Nemunas Street.

infantry units leaving the place and marching for drilling practice outside town. There were at least 800 men, rousibly even more.

23. There is a permanent unit stationed in the settlement (pasiolka) itself.

The people call it a naval infantry unit (Pestininkai—Jurininkai).

men in this unit, some of whom had already served

seven to eight years. They still did not know when they would be demobilized.

they were only employees (virstarnybiniai).

25X1

been drafted into the army and sent to this unit. All these sailors have
the same uniform as the Russian sailors, the only difference being that they
do not have the usual krabas with anchor on the front of their visor-less
caps but have a red pentagonal star instead. They also wear yellow epaulets
with the two black letters "B.F." (Baltic Fleet) on them. They are drilled and

have to guard the coastal border. There are at least 1,000 persons in this unit.

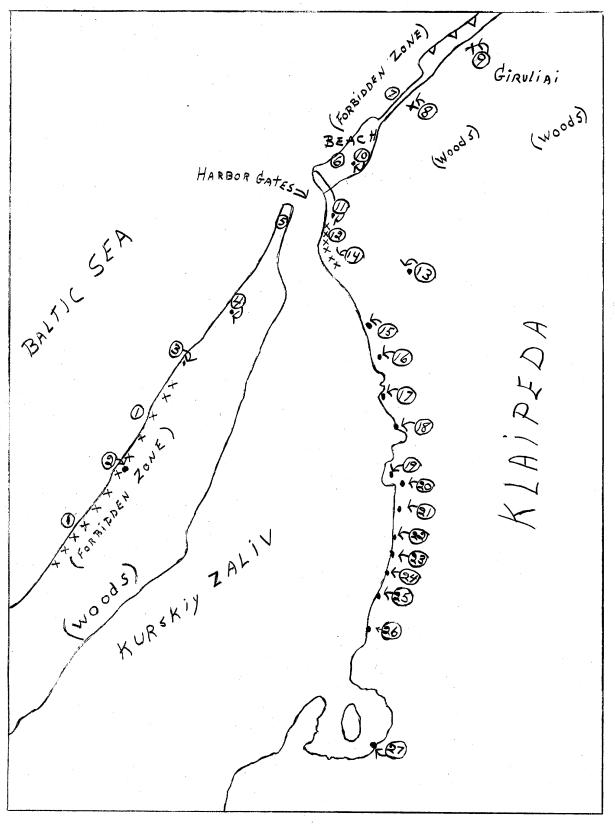
Three kilometers to the north of the settlement is a place called Giruliai. Only a very few people live here. The railroad station of Giruliai is rather small and there is a sanitary point (first aid station?) here. Some distance from Giruliai there are military headquarters and a unit similar to 25X1 that in the settlement. The troops wear naval uniforms and source saw many employed personnel (virstarnybiniai), mostly of higher ranks. They had on their caps the same insignia as real sailors, i.e. krabas with an anchor. did not see the sailors being drilled, but there is much more activity in this unit than in the one at the settlement. They drive cars to the lighthouses near the coast and carry various pieces of apparatus and military equipment which are not familiar to source. The number of sailors is large, perhaps 300 to 400 men and about 50 officers, who are in real navy uniforms. They are often on horseback or walking with dogs in the forests near the coast searching for tracks or similar things. In Klaipeda, there is also the coast guard, which mans watchtowers.

Attachment: Sketch of Klaipeda

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Attachment Page 1 25X1



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Attachment Page 2

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# Legend to Attachment 1

- 1. Coastal guns
- 2. Headquarters
- 3. Tower
- 4. Beach
- 5. Entrance (?) pier
- 6. Northern pier
- 7. Lighthouse towers 8. Naval infantry unit
- 9. Military marine headquarters
- 10. Meteorological station
- 11. New stone lighthouse
- 12. Coastal guns
- 13. Military unit
- 14.
- Guns on platform "Naptus" base (sicroil base) 15.
- 16. Commercial harbor
- 17. Meteorological towers
- 18. Remont factory
- 19. Dry dock -- almost completely constructed
- 20. Factory kombinat
- 21. Cellulose factory
- 22. Fish reception and processing factory
- 23. T.L.V. ship releasing base
- 24. Fish eception and processing base No. 2
- 25. T.L.V. fish harbor
- 26. Saw mill
- 27. Fishermen's harbor (?)